

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012316  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

INFO USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

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HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, US, GW

SUBJECT: US-FRG TANK HARMONIZATION

REF: STATE 007217, DTG 122305Z

1. FURTHER TO REFTEL, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY RELEASED  
THE FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT ON JANUARY 18: BEGIN TEXT.

SECRETARY OF THE ARMY MARTIN R. HOFFMANN TODAY STATED THAT  
THE AGREEMENT RECENTLY MADE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY LIMITS THE US EVALUATION  
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OF THE FRG LEOPARD 2 MAIN BATTLE TANK.

THIS EVALUATION OF THE LEOPARD 2 WILL BE LIMITED TO THE  
SUBSYSTEMS DEFINED IN ADDENDUM 1, PARA VI(1) TO THE MEMO-  
RANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF JULY 28, 1976. THESE SUBSYSTEMS  
INCLUDE THE ENGINE, TRANSMISSION, TRACK, FUEL, FIRE CONTROL,  
NIGHT VISION DEVICE, GUNNERS TELESCOPE AND CRITICAL

FASTENERS AS WELL AS THE 120MM GUN, A DECISION ON WHICH  
WAS DELAYED UNTIL ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 1977.

AS THE US IS NOW NO LONGER REQUIRED TO SPEND THE TIME  
AND RESOURCES NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH A SYSTEM SOURCE

SELECTION, FUTURE EFFORTS WILL BE FOCUSED ON ACHIEVING  
SUBSYSTEM STANDARDIZATION AND SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY.

A LEOPARD 2 COST AND TECHNICAL EVALUATION BOARD WILL BE  
CONVENED TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF SUB-  
SYSTEMS WITH EMPHASIS ON THOSE IDENTIFIED IN ADDENDUM 1  
IDENTIFY OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS OF SUBSYSTEM HARMONIZATION  
NOT IDENTIFIED IN ADDENDUM 1, AND PREPARE A REPORT OF  
EVALUATION TO INCLUDE A FORMAL SYBSYSTEM STANDARDIZATION  
PLAN.

END TEXT.

2. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT RESULTING FROM  
JANUARY 11 AND 12 BONN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY  
HOFFMAN, MOD LEBER AND STATE SECRETARY SCHNELL IS QUOTED  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

BEGIN TEXT

ADDITION TO ADDENDUM 1

TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED  
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STATES OF AMERICA REPRESENTED BY THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
REPRESENTED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CONCERNING  
THE HARMONIZATION OF THE US TANK XM-1 AND THE FRG TANK  
LEOPARD 2 DATED JULY 28, 1976

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
GERMANY CONFIRMED THEIR INTENTION TO SEEK THE GREATEST  
POSSIBLE COMMONALITY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE TANK PROGRAMS  
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPIRIT OF AND AS AGREED IN THE  
ADDENDUM DATED 28 JULY 1976. THE FRG RECOGNIZES THAT  
THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY (USDA) IS NOT  
IN A POSITION TO MAKE A DEFINITE DECISION ON A 120MM  
MAIN TANK GUN ON JANUARY 15, 1977. ACCORDINGLY, THE DATE  
FOR THE USDA DECISION WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL ON OR  
BEFORE DECEMBER 30, 1977. THE USDA WILL SEEK CONGRESSIONAL  
APPROVAL FOR FUNDING TO PERMIT FURTHER TESTING AND EVALUA-  
TION OF TANK MAIN ARMAMENT DURING 1977. THE USDA TAKES  
NOTE THAT THE FEDERAL GERMAN GOVERNMENT MUST SUBMIT TO

ITS PARLIAMENT IN MARCH OF 1977 APPROPRIATE PROPOSALS TO  
FULFILL ITS OBLIGATION FOR REPLACEMENT OF ITS TANK  
INVENTORY. IN DOING SO, THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT WILL  
PROPOSE A SMOOTHBORE 120MM GUN IN PURSUANCE OF THE ADDENDUM  
OF JULY 1976 AND IN ANTICIPATION OF A LATER AGREEMENT THAT  
WOULD ADVANCE MUTUAL GOALS OF STANDARDIZATION.

THE USDA AND THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (FMOD) OF  
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAVING ENTERED INTO THE  
ABOVE-MENTIONED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ADDENDUM 1  
THERETO CONCERNING THE HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDIZATION  
OF THE US TANK XM-1 AND THE FRG TANK LEOPARD 2, AND  
RECOGNIZING THE PROGRESS MADE TO DATE, AGREE THAT THE  
PRESENT EVALUATIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO THE SUBSYSTEMS  
DEFINED IN ADDENDUM 1, PARAGRAPH VI(1).

AS THE TWO TANK PROGRAMS PROGRESS, BOTH FMOD AND USDA  
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WILL CONSIDER THESE AND OTHER ITEMS IN A CONTINUING  
PROGRAM OF STANDARDIZATION.

-- BONN, JANUARY 12, 1977

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
MARTIN R. HOFFMANN  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY

FOR THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF DEFENSE  
DR. KARL SCHNELL  
STATE SECRETARY

END TEXT.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. FYI - FOR BONN: ABOVE TEXTS  
CLEARLY IMPLY THAT LEOPARD 2 IS NO LONGER UNDER  
CONSIDERATION FOR US XM-1 TANK REQUIREMENT WITH THE FOCUS  
SOLELY ON STANDARDIZATION OF SUBSYSTEMS. THERE MAY BE  
SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF THE GERMAN MOD TO POSSIBLE  
PUBLIC PERCEPTION THAT US ARMY HAS REJECTED LEOPARD 2  
SINCE PROGRAM GOES BEFORE BUNDESTAG NEXT MONTH. REQUEST  
EMBASSY VIEWS ON POSSIBLE FRG REACTIONS.

4. FOR ANATO: IN RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE PRESS SPECULATIONS  
EMBASSIES SHOULD AVOID COMMENT. END FYI. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** MPOL, US, GE, NATO, (HOFFMANN, MARTIN R)  
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**Type:** TE  
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